

MEMO

DATE: January 4, 2007

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Jill Eggerman, Assistant Regional Planner (213) 236-1919, eggerman@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Landmark Village Draft Environmental Impact Report

BACKGROUND:

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Landmark Village Project was submitted to SCAG for comment. The Landmark Village Project is a part of the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

As the clearinghouse for regionally significant projects pursuant to Executive Order 12372, SCAG reviews local plans, projects, and programs for consistency with regional plans. This activity is based on SCAG's responsibilities as a regional planning organization described in state and federal laws and regulations. SCAG staff reviews environmental documents for consistency with the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide, the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan, and SCAG's Compass Growth Vision. Guidance provided by these reviews is intended to assist local agencies and project sponsors to take actions that contribute to the attainment of regional goals and policies. CEQA requires that EIRs discuss any inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable general plans and regional plans (Section 15125[d]). If there are inconsistencies, an explanation and rationalization for such inconsistencies should be provided.

The Landmark Village Project consists of 418 lots to include a maximum of 1,444 residential units, a maximum of 1,353,000 square feet of non-residential mixed-use space, an elementary school, a community park, three private recreational facilities, open space and river trail uses. The site is currently used for agricultural purposes. Southern willow and riparian habitat extend to the central portion of the site. Three oak trees exist on site. Chiquita Canyon Landfill is located to the north of the project site. Several active and abandoned oil wells are located within the tract boundary. Some off-site infrastructure improvements will interfere with habitat for the endangered stickleback.


Staff is reviewing the project and will send a letter to the lead agency noting whether the project is consistent with applicable SCAG policies. If there is a lack of adequate information to determine whether the project is consistent with a particular policy, staff will request that the lead agency explain the consistency of the project with that policy. If there are inconsistencies, staff will request that the lead agency give a rationalization for the inconsistencies. Staff will summarize the IGR analysis at the time of the presentation. Comments on this DEIR are due on January 22, 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT:


The review of the Landmark Village Project is covered under the Environmental Planning Staff work element 07-020.SCGS1.

MEMO


Reviewed by:


Division Manager

Reviewed by:


Department Director

Reviewed by:


Chief Financial Officer